exporters by monitoring opportunities, making relevant information available, organising various trade promotion events, facilitating participation in trade fairs and assisting in the resolution of trade disputes. It has also been active in disseminating information to British trade and industry with regard to business and investment opportunities available in India. The efforts of Economic and Commercial Wing have, *inter-alia*, been responsible for Indian exports to the UK growing from Rs. 2121 Crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 7578 Crores in 1997-98; an increase of over 250%. During the same period, the British exports to India rose from Rs. 2963 Crores to Rs. 8696 Crores, an increase of over 190%.

Proposal to remove Kashmir issue from agenda of UN

1329. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to remove the Kashmir issue from the agenda of U.N. (General Assembly and Security Council) in 1997;

(b) whether, similarly, a proposal was mooted to withdraw U.N. observers from line of actual control between India and Pakistan and close down their offices in New Delhi and Islamabad; and

(c) if so, why these proposals could not be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Jammu and Kashmir is not on the agenda of the UN General Assembly; the question of its withdrawal from the agenda does not, therefore, arise. There was no proposal in 1997 to remove Kashmir from the agenda of the Security Council.

(b) No proposal was mooted by the Security Council in 1997 to withdraw UNMOGIP or to close down its offices in New Delhi and Islamabad.

(c) Question does not arise.

Policy on External Cultural Relations

1330. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any definite policy has been formulated by Government relating to India's external cultural relations;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the policy document has been laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) if not, whether Government contemplate to formulate such a policy in view of imperative need for specific guidelines on the subject of external cultural relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) the Government have established the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in April 1950 to participate in the formulation and implementation of the following policies and programmes relating to India's External Cultural Relations:

(i) To foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries.

(ii) To promote cultural exchanges with other countries and peoples.

(iii) To establish and develop relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture.

(iv) To take such measures as may be required to further these objectives.

(b) and (c) The subject of External Cultrual Relations has regularly formed a part of policy statements on foreign policy made by the Government on the Floor of the House from time to time.